

DYNAMITE 21

THE Shadow



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SEE THE BACK INSIDE COVER FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

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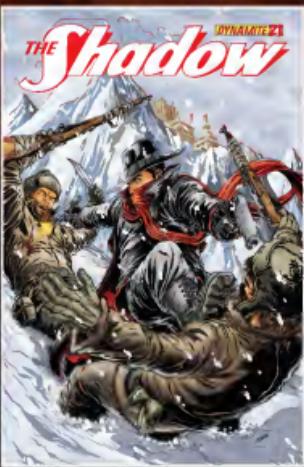
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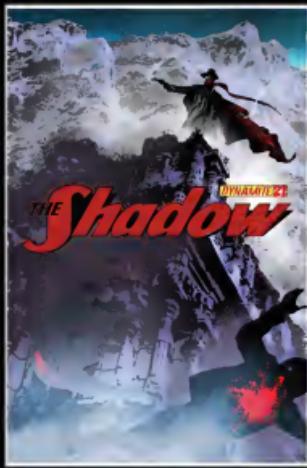
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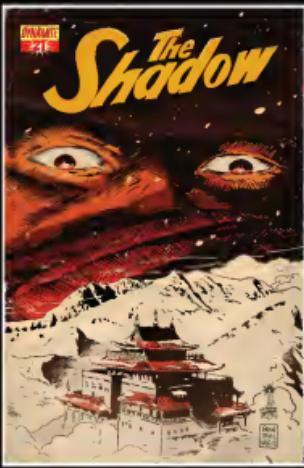
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ALEX ROSS



COVER B
CHRIS BOLSON



EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION COVER
DENNIS CALERO



ORIGINAL ART RETAILER INCENTIVE COVER
FRANCESCO FRANCIVILLA

THERE ARE SOME PLACES THAT
MAN SHOULD NOT VENTURE, TOO FAR,
TOO HIGH, TOO MUCH.

BUT THAT DOES NOT
SEEM TO STOP HIM.

LHASA CITY IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CITIES
ON EARTH, HERE IN THE PLACE OFTEN CALLED
THE "ROOF OF THE WORLD."

HOME TO THE DALAI LAMA
AND CAPITAL OF TIBET.

THE NEW INCARNATION OF THE DALAI
LAMA HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND,
BUT HE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE,
A BABE IN ARMS.

WHAT MUST IT BE LIKE, TO HAVE
LIVED SO MANY LIFETIMES IN THIS
ONE PLACE, ONLY TO RETURN TO
IT AGAIN AND AGAIN?

I HAVE BEEN HERE LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH, AND ALREADY THAT SEEMS TOO LONG A SPAN.



WHEN I ACCOMPANIED GENERAL HUANG ON HIS "CONDOLENCE MISSION" TO HONOR THE PASSING OF THE LAST DALAI LAMA, I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT I'D BE ASKED TO REMAIN BEHIND.

PERHAPS HUANG KNEW MORE ABOUT MY PAST THAN I SUSPECTED. PERHAPS HE KNEW WHO I REALLY WAS.



(THE LAST BATCH HAD AN ODD SMELL. DO BETTER THIS TIME, OR WE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THE WASH. MY UNIFORM IS INCLUDED THIS TIME.)



SO FEW OF US WERE LEFT HERE THAT WE'VE HAD TO ENLIST THE AID OF LOCALS FOR BASIC SERVICES LIKE LAUNDRY, FOOD, AND UPKEEP.



I HALF SUSPECT THAT SHE WASHES OUR UNIFORMS IN URINE, TO PUNISH US FOR BEING HERE.



AAAARRRGHHH!



AS LOUD AS ZHANG SCREAMS,
I STILL FANCY THAT I CAN HEAR THE
SOUND OF HIS SKIN CHARRING TO ASH,
HIS BONES BEGINNING TO CRACK.



I STILL HAVE THE STENCH OF BURNING HAIR AND SEARED FLESH IN MY NOSTRILS, LONG AFTER THE FLAMES HAVE BEEN EXTINGUISHED.

THE TIBETAN MILITIA ARE THE CLOSEST THING THAT LHASA HAS TO A POLICE FORCE, BUT NOT TERRIBLY CLOSE.

THEIR SUSPICIONS ARE THAT ZHANG IMMOLATED HIMSELF, WAS CONSUMED BY SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION, OR WAS THE VICTIM OF A SORCEROUS ATTACK.

...AND THAT IS ALL I KNOW OF HIM.

FROM THEIR EXPRESSIONS, I CAN SEE THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN A MAN BURNED ALIVE BEFORE THEIR EYES. NEVER SMELLED IT, OR HEARD THE SCREAMS.

OF COURSE, I HAVE, MORE TIMES THAN I CAN NUMBER.

BUT IN THOSE INSTANCE, IT WAS I WHO LIT THE TORCH AND STOKED THE FIRES.



ZHANG'S UNEXPECTED DEATH MADE ME LATE FOR MY MEETING WITH THE KASHAK, TIBET'S FOUR-MAN RULING BODY.

IT DID LITTLE TO IMPROVE THEIR OPINION OF ME.

...AND UNTIL THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT RATIFIES THE SIMLA ACCORD, THERE IS VERY LITTLE ELSE TO SAY ON THE MATTER.)

FOR THREE YEARS THE CHINESE AND TIBETANS FOUGHT OVER TERRITORY IN QINGHAI, TRYING TO PUSH THE BORDER ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES WERE GREAT.



TIBET CALLED TO HER BRITISH ALLIES FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT WHEN THE REQUESTED AID FAILED TO APPEAR, THEY WERE FORCED TO SURRENDER.

(THIS ONE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN THIS MATTER.)



(BUT MY GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT A SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE.)

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE THE TIBETANS FINALLY ADMITTED DEFEAT. BUT YOU WOULD NOT KNOW IT FROM LOOKING AT THEM.

WE ARE NOT THE ONLY FOREIGN POWER TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE HERE IN LHASA, EITHER.

SOON AFTER GENERAL HUANG'S OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED, THE BRITISH INSISTED ON SENDING ENVOYS FROM INDIA TO OPEN AN EMBASSY HERE, AS WELL.



ZHANG'S BODY IS GONE, BUT THE SCENT OF HIS PASSING STILL LINGERES.

I CANNOT HELP BUT RECALL MY YOUNGER DAYS, WHEN I WAS A DIFFERENT MAN, PUTTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO THE BLADE, WHOLE VILLAGES TO THE TORCH.



BUT THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND ME NOW. I AM NO LONGER THAT MAN, BUT "CAPTAIN WU" INSTEAD, LOYAL SOLDIER OF THE REPUBLIC.

I DOUBT THERE IS ANOTHER STILL LIVING WHO REMEMBERS THAT I WAS ONCE...







«I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WEARS A NEW NAME.»

«I WENT TO MONGOLIA IN SEARCH OF YOU AND WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE WARLORD I HAD KNOWN WAS NOW A DECORATED OFFICER IN CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S ARMY.»



«DO YOUR NEW MASTERS KNOW WHO YOU ONCE WERE? OR WHAT YOU DID?»

«NO, SOME SUSPECT, PERHAPS, BUT NOTHING THEY CAN PROVE.»



«THEY ARE WELCOME TO TRY.»

MY NAME WAS ONCE UTTERED IN WHISPERS, BY THOSE WHO CONSIDERED ME ONE OF THE MOST FEARSOME WARLORDS IN ALL OF ASIA.

I HAVE NOT TRAVELED SO GREAT A DISTANCE THAT I HAVE LOST ALL THAT I ONCE WAS.

BUT THE MAN I KNEW AS YING KO WAS FAR MORE FEARSOME THAN I. HIS NAME WAS NOT UTTERED IN WHISPERS, BUT SHOUTED IN ABJECT TERROR BY ANY WHO ENCOUNTERED HIM.

AND HERE HE IS AGAIN, AFTER ALL OF THESE YEARS, SEEKING ANSWERS.

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO KNOW?



(BAI HU)
(WHERE IS HE?)



(BAI... HU?)
(HE... HE'S DEAD, OF COURSE.)



(ISN'T HE?)

IT WOULD APPEAR NOT.
HE LIVES, AND I MUST FIND HIM.)



ONE FEARSOUE
NAME FROM THE
PAST ASKING ABOUT
ANOTHER.

NAMES I HAD WISHED
NEVER TO UTTER AGAIN,
OR EVEN HEAR SPOKEN.

(WHAT
TRANSMISSIONS
HAVE THIS OFFICE
RECEIVED FROM YOUR
COMMANDING
OFFICER?)



(ANCESTORS
FORGIVE ME, BUT
FOR A MOMENT I TOOK
PLEASURE IN IT. THE
SOUND, THE SMELL,
THE TASTE.)

(REMEMBERING
THE OLD DAYS, AND
HOW IT FELT TO
HOLD POWER IN MY
HANDS-->)

(ZHANG WAS
OUR RADIO OPERATOR.
HE WOULD KNOW.
BUT HE BURNED
TODAY.)

(RIGHT BEFORE
MY EYES, TOOK FLAME
AND BURNED TO DEATH.
NO ONE CAN SAY WHY
OR HOW.)



(YING KO?)



WHAT SLEEP I FOUND IN
THE NIGHT WAS FITFUL
AND BRIEF.

MY DREAMS FILLED WITH
A SHAMBLING PARADE OF
ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
DIED AT MY HANDS.

MORNING FINDS ME
NO MORE RESTED THAN
I WAS LAST NIGHT.

(CAPTAIN WU?
I HAVE THAT REPORT
FOR YOU.)

(WHILE I'M OUT,
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND
THAT WASHERWOMAN.
I'VE WORN THIS UNIFORM
FOR DAYS, AND NEED MY
FRESH LAUNDRY.)

(YES, SIR.)

(WHAT IS
THAT...?)

AND AS SOON AS I
AM OUT THE DOOR,
I CAN SMELL IT ON THE
WIND, EVEN THROUGH
THE THIN AIR.



THE DEAD MAN WAS FROM
THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

ANOTHER WHO HAS TRAVELED
LONG AND FAR TO FIND HIS DEATH
HERE IN THIS THIN AIR.

(STOP!
I WOULD SPEAK
TO YOU!)

(WHAT?)
(WHAT DO YOU
WANT FROM ME,
BRITISH?)

(YOUR MAN
DIED THE SAME WAY,
YESTERDAY.)

(YOU PEOPLE
MUST BE BEHIND
THIS.)

(YOUR BASELESS
ACCUSATIONS ARE
AMUSING. BUT DO NOT
TEST OUR PATIENCE
FURTHER.)

(OR YOU SHALL
SEE WHAT IT IS LIKE
IF WE *TRULY* MEANT
YOU HARM.)

ONCE I SPENT MY EVENINGS IN DECADENT SPLENDOR,
SURROUNDED BY MEN WHO COULD KILL AT A SINGLE WORD
FROM ME, AND WOMEN WHO WOULD REFUSE ME NOTHING.



NOW, NIGHT FINDS ME
ALONE IN A BARE ROOM,
WITH NOTHING BUT MY
THOUGHTS.



WE TRAVEL SO FAR, CLIMB SO HIGH,
BUT CANNOT ESCAPE WHO WE WERE,
WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

MEMORY TRAILS BEHIND
US LIKE A SHADOW.



BUT I SUPPOSE IT MAKES
LITTLE DIFFERENCE IF WE
ROAM OR STAY IN ONE PLACE,
TRAPPED WITHIN FOUR WALLS.



NO MATTER HOW FAR WE
TRAVEL, HOW HIGH WE CLIMB,
WE ALWAYS FIND DEATH
WAITING FOR US AT THE END.







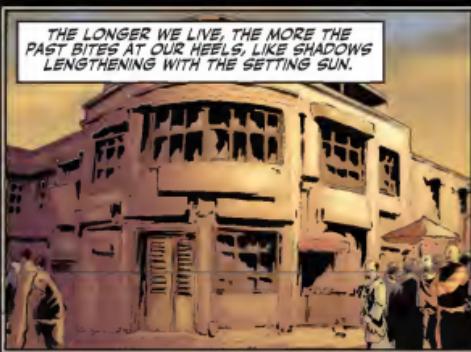
«THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY LYING, YOU KNOW. I FOUND THE OILS YOU SOAKED INTO THE LAUNDRY. THE UNIFORMS OF THE CHINESE, THE SUITS OF THE BRITISH.»

«LEFT TOO LONG IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT, AND IT HEATS UP, BURSTS INTO FLAMES.»





THE LONGER WE LIVE, THE MORE THE PAST BITES AT OUR HEELS, LIKE SHADOWS LENGTHENING WITH THE SETTING SUN.



THERE IS NO DISTANCE THAT WE CAN TRAVEL THAT WE DO NOT BRING OUR SINS ALONG WITH US.



(I WAS WONDERING IF I WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN.)



(THERE WAS BUSINESS THAT NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED.)

(SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU AND YOUR MEN SHOULD CONSIDER GETTING FRESH UNIFORMS. I'M AFRAID YOUR OLD LAUNDRY HAS... SOURED.)

(IF YOU SAY.)

(SO, WHAT DID YOU FIND OF BAI HU?)





(HIS TRAIL HAS
GROWN COLD, BUT I
BELIEVE I KNOW WHERE
TO PICK UP THE
SCENT.)

(HE WILL BE
HELPED TO ACCOUNT,
IN THE END, HE WILL
FACE JUSTICE.)



(AS WILL
WE ALL.)

(YOU'VE BECOME A PHILOSOPHER IN
YOUR OLD AGE, YING KO. I REMEMBER
A TIME WHEN YOU WERE MORE
INTERESTED IN BLOOD THAN
JUSTICE.)



(IT WAS SO LONG AGO, THAT SOMETIMES
IT FEELS LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN THAN I
COMMITTED THOSE ACTS. A DIFFERENT
MAN, WITH A DIFFERENT NAME.)

(CHANGING NAMES
IS LIKE PUTTING ON A
NEW SUIT OF CLOTHES.
THE MAN WITHIN REMAINS
THE SAME. THE HEART
REMAINS THE SAME.)



(AND WE WILL
ALL FACE JUSTICE IN
THE END, AS YOU
WILL NOW.)

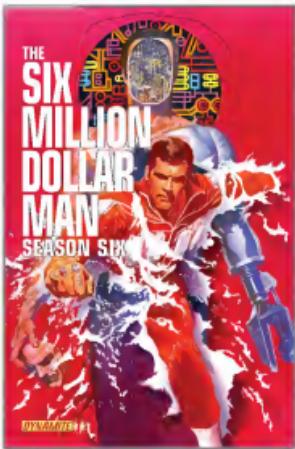
THERE ARE PLACES
THAT MAN SHOULD NOT
VENTURE. ONCE THERE,
HE CAN NEVER TRULY
RETURN.

TO BE CONTINUED

DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - JANUARY 2014

DYNAMITE CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN WITH A NEW SEASON 6 COMIC BOOK SERIES, EXPANDS UPON CLASSIC TV CONTINUITY



Dynamite and NBCUniversal Television Consumer Products are proud to announce that the beloved television action hero Colonel Steve Austin will celebrate his 40th Anniversary by returning to comics in the upcoming *Six Million Dollar Man: Season 6* series, set immediately following the classic television continuity. Featuring the writing talent of award-winning author James Kuhoric (*Army of Darkness*) and artwork by Juan Antonio Ramirez, the upcoming *Six Million Dollar Man: Season 6* comic series will launch with covers by legendary painter Alex Ross (*Kingdom Come*).

A direct follow-up to the classic television series, the *Season 6* series pits Steve Austin and his trusted handler Oscar Goldman against a rogue faction of the OSI. A new type of infiltration agent is the key to the treacherous power play - one that is robotic and completely obedient to the traitors. Can a soulless machine make the world's first Bionic Man obsolete? *Six Million Dollar Man: Season 6* will hold special appeal for longtime fans, as the infamous villain Maskatron debuts for the first time within story continuity with a violent and terrifying purpose. Furthermore, Austin's role as a NASA pilot will return to prominence, as conspiracies involving extraterrestrial technology and close encounters take root at the OSI.

"Being able to tell a story about Steve Austin is a lifetime ambition," says writer James Kuhoric. "The *Six Million Dollar Man* was a cornerstone of positive childhood memories, and stuck with me over three decades. The idea of a man who could do anything he wanted, but always chose to do the 'right thing,' captivated me. Time and time again, Steve would show us that it really wasn't the machine that made the man special, it was the man that made the machine special. That little spark of childhood, that hidden gem that told me to do the right thing, stuck with me all this time. Every time since that I would hear the distinctive opening credits sequence, I would be brought back to a purer frame of mind - one where you could solve any problem with bionic limbs, a wry smile, and a raised eyebrow."

To discuss this and more, log onto the Dynamite forums at
WWW.DYNAMITE.COM/BOARDS

James Kuhoric has written many original creator-driven and licensed comic books. His list of writing contributions includes *Battlestar Galactica*, *Stargate SG-1*, and his Spike TV Scream Award-winning run on *Army of Darkness*. Collaborating with Jeff Katz, he brought three of the biggest horror franchises together with *Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash: The Nightmare Warriors*. His original creations *Dead Irons* and *Legendary Talespinners* were featured as key releases by *Wizard Magazine* and *Comic Shop News*. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Bleeding Cool Magazine*, as well as the Vice President of Publishing for Avatar Press.

"When the guys at Dynamite launched Kevin Smith's *Bionic Man* (a modern reimagining of the character), I read it totally every month, but I still missed the original," says Kuhoric. "When Dynamite approved my pitch for the continuation of the original series picking up after the final fifth season, I knew I had to bring back all the things that made it special to me back in the day. The book has a specific look to it, and will feature many of the main characters from the series. We went out of our way to use the *Kung Fu Slow Motion*, the sound effects, and all the oddities of that era so the comic book would feel like the original TV series."

Kuhoric comments on the art chores, "When I saw the first turnarounds from artist Juanan Ramirez, I was amazed. His images evoked everything special I had always seen in the show, and he brought a fresh, more modern look to the pages overall. Dynamite would take it a step further by getting Alex Ross to paint the main covers for the new series. As a lifetime comic book fan, it is a true honor to have the industry's most prolific painter contribute his incredible work on one of my stories. Everything about this new series is going to be done with the care of lifetime fans behind it."

Award-winning painter and industry icon Alex Ross not only provides the covers for *Season 6*, he also made the novel suggestion to develop a long-lost piece of SMDM action figure history into one of the franchise's most fearsome villains. "The Maskatron toy was my favorite toy growing up," says Ross. "I played with it to death, turning it into different characters from *The Six Million Dollar Man*, as well as other comic book characters that I could turn it into. I'm thrilled to help bring it to life in a full storyline."

"When deciding what event would be compelling to fans of the show, it seemed that delivering the sixth season was ideal," says Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite. "We wanted to build on the mythos, and to do that, we felt that there had to be new villains. In discussions, we contemplated: why not bring into the series a villain whom fans would know from the toys, even though he wasn't in the TV series? Why not have a villain who could be The Joker to Steve Austin's Batman, or Doctor Octopus to his Spider-Man? How to push the envelope? And I have to say, James took Alex's idea and ran with it. New and existing fans are going to be surprised at the time and care that went in to putting together the series that will help celebrate Steve Austin's 40th Anniversary, and beyond."

NEXT ISSUE:



ISSUE #22

The search for the Girasol's secret has lead The Shadow from the dark streets of Manhattan to the snowy wastes of Siberia and the vaunted peaks of the Himalayas. Now his journey brings him to the steaming jungles of Guatemala. But is he one step closer to the mystery's solution, or to his own grave?

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